

Elder Smiley graduated from Breckenridge Job Corps Center in Morganfield, Kentucky, in 1977. After graduation, he accepted God's call on his life to minister.

March 13, 1978, changed his life forever and provided a monumental challenge to his faith and his zeal for life. He suffered a devastating accident while working at a local saw mill. Although paralyzed from the waist down, he maintained a soaring spirit and even stronger love for the Lord.

He is a tireless and tenacious worker who lives a life of service to others and to his God. Elder Smiley has served on the "Spirit Team" at the Methodist Rehabilitation Center where he motivates and encourages others with spinal injuries. He is also a member of the Copiah Chapter of NAACP, Chaplin of the Hazlehurst Parent-Teacher Association and volunteers at high school football games in traffic control and gate security. From 2002 to 2005, he served as a role model and discussion leader at the Mississippi Job Corp Center and he is the Vice President of the Benevolent Fund of the Copiah County Ministerial Alliance and the Transportation Committee.

Elder Smiley and his wife, Cora, have four children. He is an Ordained Minister and Elder at New Cathedral of Worship in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. He serves as an officer on the Church's Executive Board with responsibility as Director of Maintenance, Property and Logistics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a humble but dynamic servant, Elder Henry Smiley, for his service to the community.

HONORING ERIC MERKELY

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Eric Merkely, a 17-year-old student at Salem Hills High School. This remarkable young man was recently diagnosed with a form of cancer found in his leg called osteosarcoma. The cancer quickly spread into the surrounding muscle, bone, and nerves to the point that Eric had to undergo extensive surgery. While this surgery saved his life, it also took his leg.

For most people this experience would be considered a tragic loss. However, Eric has grown from the experience and greatly impacted his school and community. Even though many were concerned about his health, Eric turned his illness into an opportunity to give back to those less fortunate than himself. He raised money by selling wristbands and donated the proceeds to a children's hospital.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of a young man who turned his personal trials into an opportunity to give to those less fortunate and who is great example for the community.

IN HONOR OF THE PREMIERE OF
THE "RED TAILS" MOVIE ABOUT
THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an upcoming celebration of the Tuskegee Airmen, which will be held on January 20th when the George Lucas film "Red Tails" makes its national debut.

The movie will highlight the heroic Tuskegee Airmen who served our country with honor and distinction even though they faced great challenges back at home. The Tuskegee Airmen flew over 15,000 missions and were awarded the Congressional Medal in 2007.

Across Tuskegee and Alabama, friends will honor this tribute by wearing red and hanging red ribbons across the community. There will be a red ribbon hanging in my Washington, DC office as well.

In 1998, the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site at Moton Field in Macon County was established. This site draws people from all over to come and visit.

It is with deepest appreciation and honor that we celebrate the Tuskegee Airmen for the film "Red Tails" filmed in their honor. This tribute should be another great way to help continue to tell their story for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING THE SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES ON THEIR 2011 CIF STATE BOWL DIVISION AND 2011 CIF PAC-5 DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Santa Margarita Catholic High School Eagles on their 2011 CIF State Bowl Division and 2011 CIF PAC-5 Division Championships. Their 42-37 victory on December 16, 2011, is an achievement that will be remembered forever.

Winning a state championship is a remarkable achievement. This championship is a legacy that both Santa Margarita High School and each 2010-2011 Eagle player will always cherish. The Eagles and Coach Harry Welch, along with assistant coaches John Carpenter, Sean Coen, Dave Frazeur, Paul Gomes, Joe Griffith, Wyatt Hart, Rob Hendricks, Mike Johnson, Jay Noonan, Kevin Orton, Brian Pearsall, Adrian Peters, Marty Spalding, Mike Walcott, Butch Ward and Monterio Witherspoon, know that success comes with teamwork and perseverance. The coaches rely upon team managers for expert assistance. Managers Haley Davin, Lauren Haydon, Rachel Imburgia and Sydney Martin were instrumental in the victory.

It is an honor to pay tribute to Santa Margarita High School and the entire Eagles football squad. The House of Representatives salutes each of you: Houston Agan, Matt Andersen, Reid Andrew, Ryan Andrew, Nick Begg, Tony Bone, Zach Bonte, Erik Bunte, Justin

Cabrera, Josh Canty, Grant Clancy, River Cracraft, Dane Crane, Kendall Czech, Ian Dewert, Frank DiPietro, Sean Donegan, David Dotson, Chris Frost, Ryan Gardner, Sammy Gibbs, Hunter Graham, Grady Higgins, Duncan Hume, Konner Kafentzis, Patrick Kennelly, Jack Kerry, Ryan Kilander, Jonathan LaBonty, Brenden Linzmeier, Cole Luther, Michael Della Maggiore, Austin Maihen, RJ Mazolewski, Joseph McGill, John McGrory, Brady McGuire, Sean McGuire, Alec McNiff, James McQuitty, Andrew Mendonca, Cory Mendoza, Sean Modster, Connor O'Brien, Mack Pierson, Luke Poutre, Taylor Prenevost, Ben Prukop, Blaine Rieger, Drake Schwenke, Riley Sorenson, Will Sorenson, Gian Carlo Spinosi, Johnny Stanton, Luke Stinson, Alex Suchesk, Randal Swain, Kyle Sweet, Max Tuerk, Alex Ury, Ryan Wolpin and Bradley Ydens.

Congratulations again to the Santa Margarita High School Eagles.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY JONES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize FEMA Region 6 Deputy Regional Administrator Gary Jones as he retires from public service. Mr. Jones retired at the end of 2011 after forty-six years of state and federal service.

Earning a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Arkansas and a Master's Degree in Public Health Administration from Tulane University, Mr. Jones began his public service with the State of Arkansas. This state career spanned thirteen years, including three years as the Director of Arkansas' Emergency Medical Services Program. He then went into federal service in 1977 with the U.S. Public Health Service where his role as Arkansas State Coordinator for Physician Recruitment to identify doctors, dentists and nurses for rural Arkansas communities federally designated as medically underserved.

In 1983 Mr. Jones joined FEMA and moved to Denton. By 1987 he was Branch Chief for Region 6 Technological Hazards Branch where he was responsible for the region's Radiological Emergency Preparedness, Radiological Defense, Hazardous Materials, Earthquake Preparedness, Hurricane Preparedness, Dam Safety and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness programs.

In 1994 Mr. Jones was promoted to his current position as the FEMA Region 6 Deputy Regional Administrator, during which he served on five separate occasions as the FEMA Region 6 Acting Regional Administrator for a span of time that exceeded four years.

During the seventeen years he served as Deputy Regional Administrator, he provided executive leadership and oversight in over three hundred federally declared disasters including his roles as Deputy Principal Federal Official for Hurricane Rita (2005) and Federal Coordinating Officer for Hurricanes Katrina (2005) and Georges (1998) as well as service in Hurricane Andrew, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster, Tropical Storm Allison, and the duration of 2008 which featured Hurricane Ike and proved to be a record-breaking year for the region in presidentially declared disasters. Several of these disasters have directly impacted